

ACE Meeting Minutes

The purpose of the Advisory Council for Education is to provide a systematic representative public involvement in educational decisions under consideration by the Board of Directors.

June 6, 2024
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Megan Hodgson, Britt Kleinman, Arissa Matthews, Anne McAlvey, Cheryl McGuire, Alex Pincus, Adrienne Pournadeali, Gary Sabol, Chrys Sweeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of minutes

April and May meeting minutes were approved by voice vote. No changes to minutes.

Student Agency and Voice

Examples of Student Agency

- Universal Design for Learning, Student Advisory Council, Students on District Committees, School Board Student Advisors, Danielson Framework for Certificated Evaluation, Student Leaderships at Schools, Student Clubs, Student Surveys

Student Voices

What agency opportunities have you experienced?

- Leadership Class, I have a lot of say what about what will happen in assemblies, enjoy that experience- Arissa also advocated for herself with her counselor to change classes.
- Adrienne is a freshman officer, helped with homecoming parade floats, shared a lot of opinions, inter high conference at the beginning of the year, she feels students have a lot to share but don't have that opportunity
- Ali is an ASB officers and a trusted student, works on bigger projects in classes, shares thoughts

How do we increase student agency in our schools? Did teacher give you choice?

- Very prescriptive, some projects allow you some flexibility
- English class was prescriptive but after reading Romeo and Juliet they were given lots of different options. Allows some buy-in from students and will perform better

- Passion Projects at Post- You pick a topic and you make a presentation to help them visualize the topic

Student Voices

What do you love about your schools

- The people
- Positive environments
- Big libraries

Do you belong and feel accepted?

- A lot of acceptance in the schools but there are mean words, racist comments, ostracized, bullying, hard to feel heard with diverse topics

Do you feel safe at school?

- When they feel included, great staff connections, drills make them feel safe, having friends there for them
- Don't feel safe when wild animals are on playground, mental health and bullying, scary events they don't know when they're happening, other students

What helps your learning?

- Elementary- Like it quiet and teachers that help them
- MS- some like quiet, some like music, teachers that help, time to explain and 1-1
- HS- teachers that get to know you and your struggles
- SVLC- teachers understand what you're saying and respond

What makes learning hard?

- Noise and disruptions in classroom, kids misbehaving, MS- missing school attendance
- MS/HS- feeling like they're not listened to

In the future, I would like my school to have?

- Elementary- AC and bigger playgrounds, swings
- Middle School- better food options, allergy friendly, more options for sports for 6th graders, more clubs
- High School- Better classes and activities that will help their future, financial literacy

ACE Presentation to Board

Dr. Sweeting showed ACE the Powerpoint presentation that will be shown to the board at the June 10 Board Meeting. Britt, Anne, Hillary, Cheryl McGuire, Arissa, Kiera, Karrie, Gary, and Dr. Sweeting are available to present if needed.

Review ACE Leadership

Britt will continue to serve as chair and Erica will serve as vice chair for the 2024-25 school year.

Meeting Schedule

Change to Sept. 5 to Sept. 12. The October ACE meeting will be held at Post Middle School.

Proposed topics for 2024-25

- Ban cellphones in schools! Maybe have principals share practices, consistency
- Safety in the schools, where can we make improvements, how do students feel? Student to student contact
- What information that is coming from the Safe Schools Tipline and SRO feedback
- Tie it to community involvement, every function for bond, community involvement, same people show up to the same meetings, February 2024 report
- What has worked in the past to get people into the schools, Fridays at senior center, have more community voices types of opportunities, invites PTAs and Boosters to community voices

Student Updates and Perspectives

Arissa- Finals are coming up!

Adrienne- Fall production of the Tempest

Closing

Anne made a motion, seconded by Alex, to end the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Next Meeting- Sept. 12